

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043854

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 OPR-02 INR-10 SAM-01 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043854

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: SECURITY PERSONNEL FOR CAIRO

FROM GENTILE TO AMBASSADOR

REF: CAIRO 1006, 518,389 STATE 25189

1. DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE MARINE
SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT AT YOUR POST BY 1 APRIL. FURTHER
THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO ASSIGN A
RESIDENT RSO TO YOUR POST TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE
AMOUNT AND TYPE OF SECURITY AND PERSONNEL PROTECTION
MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT WE ARE PROVIDING YOU. WE NOW
BELIEVE THAT SINCE THERE HAS BEEN A LIFTING OF PERSONNEL
CEILINGS THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING THE
POST WITH SUCH AN OFFICER BEFORE THERE IS A CHANGE IN
EGYPTIAN FEELINGS TOWARD THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS
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ASSIGNED TO THE MISSION.

2. FOR THE DEPARTMENT I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED RSO POSITIONS FOR EACH MAJOR EMBASSY IN NEA AND WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING RSOS IN ALL THE SMALLER ONES. WE BELIEVE THAT WHERE AN RSO IS ASSIGNED WE CREATE A CERTAIN ATMOSPHERE OF DETERRENT WHICH WORKS IN OUR FAVOR AGAINST RADICAL ELEMENTS WHO MIGHT POSE A THREAT TO THE MISSION AND ITS PERSONNEL.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT OVER AND ABOVE THE DIRECT SECURITY BENEFITS YOU WOULD ATTAIN WITH A RESIDENT RSO YOUR POST WOULD DERIVE OTHER ANCILLARY BENEFITS BECAUSE OF HIS PRESENCE AT POST ON A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR BASIS. POST WILL UNDERSTAND I'M SURE THAT ALTHOUGH THE RSO IS A PROFESSIONAL IN HIS FIELD THERE ARE OTHER DUTIES WHICH CAN BE ASSIGNED TO HIM IF HE IS NOT FULLY OCCUPIED. MOREOVER, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MONITOR THIS POSITION CAREFULLY AND IF IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE RSO COULD BE USED TO A BETTER ADVANTAGE ELSEWHERE HE WOULD BE TRANSFERRED.

4. THE CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS, AND THE NATION FOR THE SECURITY AND WELL BEING OF OUR OVERSEAS MISSIONS AND PERSONNEL HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO EMPLOY SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL AND BUY ENOUGH MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE A MINIMUM OF SECURITY SUPPORT FOR THE FIELD. SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND APPROPRIATIONS WERE PASSED BY CONGRESS TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN THIS PROBLEM. WE WOULD BE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN A FAILURE IN OUR PROGRAM IF AN INCIDENT DID HAPPEN WHICH INDICATED WE HAD NOT MADE AN ALL OUT EFFORT TO PREPARE FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE RATIONALE I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU CONSIDER ACCEPTING A RESIDENT RSO AT YOUR POST. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. NEWLIN.

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